

National Service Impact in Louisiana

AmeriCorps

Project Homecoming builds housing units for vulnerable, low-income families in New Orleans. Launched in 2007 as a Presbytery of South Louisiana disaster recovery ministry in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Project Homecoming has rebuilt 130 homes for low-income, elderly, disabled, and underinsured clients. Project Homecoming first operated as a placement site for AmeriCorps NCCC teams and as a host site for another AmeriCorps State program, Louisiana Delta Service Corps. They are now an independent nonprofit community development organization, and are moving toward expanding services to include building amenities such as gardens and playgrounds.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC team River 7 worked with Green Light New Orleans to install 8,950 compact fluorescent lamps in 450 houses. The total energy bill savings for recipients was approximately \$411,700. The team also led 1,600 volunteers in installing rain barrels, clearing 39 lots, and installing community gardens. The team shared information with the community that they hope will lead to a more sustainable New Orleans. Team members learned how to help save money and protect the environment by curtailing energy usage.

AmeriCorps VISTA

In 2013, Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) and local CASA and Children's Advocacy Centers programs hosted approximately 20 AmeriCorps VISTA members. During that time, the project was expanded to include two smaller, more rural areas of Louisiana, Saint Landry and Vernon parishes, where VISTA members used social media platforms to increase volunteer recruitment. Jefferson and New Orleans VISTA members facilitated the Darkness to Light training and educated community members on how they can best assist child abuse prevention efforts. A New Orleans CASA member secured funds to launch an in-house Advocate Resource Library to help raise awareness of issues facing youth in foster care. Additionally, members serving in the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children office were integral in developing the initial framework for the Geaux Blue for Kids! prevention initiative, launched in April 2013.

Senior Corps

RSVP in Lincoln Parish has 30 RSVP volunteers tutoring 120 teacher-identified elementary students in science comprehension and math skills. Tutoring incorporates hands-on science and math projects that help increase interest in these subjects. The volunteer's goal is to increase the number of students who pass the LEAP test and enhance enthusiasm for science and math. The RSVP volunteers helped students increase their LEAP scores by 5 percent (74 percent in 2011 vs. 79 percent in 2012). A teacher evaluation of the program also showed improved classroom grades and student behavior.

Social Innovation Fund

By partnering with a Social Innovation Fund intermediary, Jobs for the Future, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) is expanding its targeted training and technical assistance to at least 23,000 low-income individuals and addressing the critical skill needs of more than 1,000 employers. In Louisiana, the Fund is working with two nonprofit collaborators: New Orleans Works/Greater New Orleans Foundation and Workforce Innovations in Northwest Louisiana (WINLA)/Community Foundation of North Louisiana. Each of these received an initial subgrant of \$300,000 over two years from Jobs for the Future, which they will match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. New Orleans Works plans to serve 250 jobseekers in career ladder jobs such as health information management and laboratory technology; the organization will also serve 70 incumbent workers. WINLA is expanding its existing workforce partnership in health care and creating a new partnership in the energy sector. It plans to serve 150 job seekers and 198 incumbent workers.